

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on January 22, 2001 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)
Rep. Dave Lewis, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Matt McCann, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)
Rep. Edith Clark (R)
Rep. Bob Davies (R)
Rep. Stanley Fisher (R)
Rep. Dick Haines (R)
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)
Rep. Art Peterson (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)
Rep. John Witt (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Paula Broadhurst, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 240, HB 122, 1/22/2001
Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON HB 240

Sponsor: Rep. Joe McKenney, HD 49.

Proponents: Mike Orcutt, Central Montana Regional Advisory Committee; John Mootry, Barrett Memorial Hospital; Anne Williams, Eastern Montana Regional Trauma Advisory Committee; Kim Sorensen, Montana Nurses; Drew Dawson, Department of Public Health and Human Services; Susan Good, Montana Orthopedic Society; Jim Aarons, President of Montana Hospital Association; Jennie Nemec, St. Peter's Hospital; Sammi Butler, Self; John Bleicher, St. Patrick's Hospital; Cliff Christian, American Heart Association; Pete Lucas, Central RTAC and Benefis Healthcare.

Opponents: None.

Informational Witnesses: None.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. McKenney said this bill would provide a permanent and stable funding source for the trauma care system. This bill proposes a permanent funding source by imposing a 30 cent fee on vehicle registrations.

Proponents' Testimony:

Mike Orcutt said there is an epidemic in Montana that is maiming and killing young people at an alarming rate. This epidemic is the leading cause of death in young people. It causes more deaths in the one to forty four year age group than all other causes combined. This problem is trauma related injuries. He supports the funding source detailed in the bill for the trauma system. **EXHIBIT(aph17a01)**.

John M. Mootry said Barrett Memorial Hospital is soon to be designated a critical access hospital. They received 25 trauma cases in the year 2000, 17 of those cases were transferred to a higher facility for specialty care. It is critically important to them in transferring their patients, that there is a well developed system for transport that gives people immediate care at Barrett Memorial Hospital, but then moves them quickly to other specialty care centers. **EXHIBIT(aph17a02)**.

Anne Williams said by working together in an organized system, each of the facilities in Montana have been able to improve the care they provide to injured patients. They have worked hard to

integrate all phases of care and all of their facilities. Much more needs to be accomplished, but they have made a good start. They urge support of HB 240. **EXHIBIT(aph17a03)**.

Kim Sorensen said she is a trauma nurse and is representing nurses involved in trauma care. Montana has a statewide trauma registry which is the lifeblood of a medical facility's trauma program. The trauma register is instrumental in guiding our system development, process improvement, education, and prevention efforts at local, regional and statewide levels. Funding to continue support of this register is crucial. They support HB 240. **EXHIBIT(aph17a04)**.

Drew Dawson said the State Trauma Care committee considered that it would be appropriated that this be funded by the assessment of motor vehicle registration. The reasons are about 52% of traumatic deaths in Montana are due to motor vehicle injuries and of all the serious injuries, not including death, 63% were related to some type of transportation modality. **EXHIBIT(aph17a05)**.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 21.5}

Susan Good said this is a small program and it is pretty high on the accountability scale. These issues are going to be handled on a local and regional basis. This will be the best money that will be appropriated for this session. She supports HB 240.

Jim Aarons said this is a good bill, trauma is a real problem. He urges support of HB 240.

Jennie Nemec said it is essential that the efforts accomplished so far toward the establishment of the statewide trauma system not be compromised due to a loss of funding. She supports HB 240. **EXHIBIT(aph17a06)**.

Sammi Butler said she is representing herself as a registered nurse. She supports HB 240.

John Bleicher supports HB 240. **EXHIBIT(aph17a07)**.

Cliff Christian supports HB 240. **EXHIBIT(aph17a08)**.

Pete Lucas said Montana Trauma System is a must and will provide an organized, efficient approach to care of the severely injured patient. **EXHIBIT(aph17a09)**.

The 1999 Montana Trauma System Report was handed in. **EXHIBIT(aph17a10)**.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.5}

Rep. Kasten asked **Mr. Dawson** concerning the advisory council and the trauma care committee, how he see's that being set and how many people will be on that committee. **Mr. Dawson** said the State Trauma Care Committee is specified in legislation, the members are appointed by the Governor and the positions are named by the creative statute.

Rep. Fisher asked **Mr. Dawson** how much money has been appropriated in the past and how much will be in the future. **Mr. Dawson** said the funding for the program with federal grant funds has been about \$250,000 per year. The funding that is requested in the executive budget, contingent upon passage of this legislation is \$217,000. The 30 cents will generate a little more than that.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. McKenney said the expenditures are \$217,000 approximately. The revenue on the 30 cents per vehicle were raised \$374,000. The 30 cents per vehicle could be dropped down to 20 cents per vehicle. This bill is simple and it is a life or death issue. Montana has an injury rate 32% higher than the national average. He said that rate needs to come down and we need to save lives.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 4.5}

HEARING ON HB 122

Sponsor: Rep. Michelle Lee, HD 26.

Proponents: Rebecca Moog, Montana Women's Lobby; Kate Cholewa, Center for Policy Analysis and Community Change; Helen Taffs, Self; Doreen Clark, Self; Lisa Ellis, WEEL; Sharon Hoff-Brodowy, Montana Catholic Conference; Sharon Reed, Self; Keith Allen, Self; Betty Whiting, Montana Association of Churches; Don Judge, Montana State AFL-CIO.

Opponents: Carlene Grossberg, Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Informational Witnesses: None.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Lee said this bill is an act creating the Child Support Assurance Program. She explained how the program would work. She had amendments that would take the proposed bill down to a pilot program for 5,000 families in 5 counties. There is a work requirement, every person is required to have a support order. Also paternity has to be established. All these families have incomes 185% of poverty. Child Support Assurance emphasizes the need for both parents to contribute to the well being of their children. There is child support programs already in operation, such as in New York. There are 3 programs in California and there are 3 states that are taking under pilot programs, Missouri, Colorado and Nevada.

Proponents' Testimony:

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 11.8}

Rebecca Moog said it is time to move forward and liberate families by creating access to the income packages that allow families to survive. The CSA, families have income packages that keep them from needing welfare. This gets families off of welfare and it keeps families from slipping back into Welfare with the first missed child support payment. She supports HB 122.

Kate Cholewa said she has been working on welfare issues as they relate to funding since 1990, as was part of the group of people who worked on Montana Welfare Reform. She spoke about the pilot project in the fiscal note. She supports HB 122.

Helen Taffs said child support makes a difference in her and her son's life. It makes the difference whether she can pay her power bill and phone bill. CSA will allow working parents to continue to work. She urges support of HB 122.

EXHIBIT(aph17a11).

Doreen Clark said she chose education for her family to move out of poverty. At times she has had to rely on public assistance to feed her children. This program will enable economic stability, self respect and a road to self sufficiency.

Lisa Ellis said three years ago she put herself through college and now has a career. CSA helps families out of poverty and gives parents what is needed to live a normal life, so they don't have to end up on public assistance.

Sharon Hoff-Brodowy said nearly half of all American children will spend time in a single family situation. The success or failure of the nations child support system affects more children than any government program except education. She supports HB 122.

Information on Advantages of a Child Support Assurance Program was handed in. **EXHIBIT**(aph17a12) .

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.8}

Sherrie Reed said CSA is a great idea and can change people's lives for the best. She supports HB 122.

Keith Allen said although he does not qualify for this program, he believes that this is the time to do what is right for children and their parents.

Betty Whiting said children are entitled to healthy growth and development. This would give financial stability to qualifying families. This bill makes both parent responsible by encouraging child support payments that were court ordered. She supports HB 122.

Don Judge said they support HB 122. This legislation will also allow employers to retain qualified workers.

Opponents' Testimony:

Carlene Grossberg said DPHHS opposes this bill because the bill creates a new entitlement program that circumvents welfare reform time limits and the thirty hour work requirement. Also this bill is not consistent with the welfare reform philosophy of personal responsibility. There is no general fund for this program over and above what the state has already spent.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Rep. Jayne asked **Ms. Grossberg** if the CSA program was offered as a option for the public hearing attending to think about and comment on. **Ms. Grossberg** said as options came up they shared that with the focus groups.

Rep. Kaufmann asked **Ms. Cholewa** if she attending any of public comment sessions and what her assessment is on authority of CSA. **Ms. Cholewa** said she has been working with the advocacy groups such as WEEL and PA. There would be less need for services, people would be working and there would be less utilization of the welfare system.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 24.8}

Rep. Buzzas said to **Rep. Lee** last session there was discussion on a bill about a chance of recovering the child support payments that were paid out from the custodial parent who was required by court order to pay. She asked if she would speak on that issue.

Rep. Lee said all of the tools available to the child support enforcement division would be applicable to this bill. There has to be a child support order and established paternity.

Rep. Buzzas said to **Ms. Grossberg** there has been lots of language that talks about efforts of employment, she asked if it was the DPHHS policy to keep people on welfare. **Ms. Grossberg** said it was not consistent with National Welfare Reform Philosophy, time limits and work requirements. It is not our philosophy to keep people on welfare.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.8}

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mary Ann Wellbank, Administrator of Child Support Enforcement Division**, what effort does the division make to collect non-paid child support payments. **Ms. Wellbank** said they make every effort to collect. They can suspend professional and occupational and drivers licenses for delinquencies of support. They collect child support through income withholding, and offset state and federal income tax refunds. They report delinquent people to the credit bureau and have an internet list of people who are delinquent meeting certain criteria. They place liens against assets and seize bank accounts.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Lee said any costs and any savings will occur within the welfare block grant, it is a closed system. This is about a different way of doing business within a system. She urged a Do Pass on HB 122.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:55 P.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

PAULA BROADHURST, Secretary
Transcribed by Donna Huffman

SV/PB/DH

EXHIBIT (aph17aad)